

# Operating Principles Governing the Work of the Panel

## Request for Written Submissions from Member States and Relevant Stakeholders

Member states, during the resumed first session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG1.2), requested the Secretariat of the OEWG to solicit written submissions from Member States and relevant stakeholders regarding the operating principles governing the work of the panel.

In support of this request, the Secretariat conducted a webinar (on 26 April 2023) dedicated to the issue of operating principles. In advance of the webinar, the Secretariat released a background document which provides a comparative overview of operating principles of relevant, existing science-policy panels (IPCC, IPBES, IRP and GEO). The recording of the webinar can be found on [this website](#), when available, and the background document is available at [this link](#).

A variety of potential operating principles are presented below, based on the analysis performed for this [background document](#). The following questions in no way attempt to rank or preclude consideration of the operating principles of the future SPP, rather, they draw from the agreed text of Resolution 5/8 and other existing, relevant science-policy bodies, as well as the discussions at the OEWG. You may also suggest relevant potential operating principles that have not been identified yet.

Member States are invited to provide submissions through their respective national focal points (list of focal points available [at this link](#)). Non-government stakeholders are invited to submit their submissions on behalf of their organization or group. You are invited to respond to all or some of the questions below. Once complete, please submit this filled document to [SPP-CWP@un.org](mailto:SPP-CWP@un.org). All submissions will be uploaded online and will inform a working document to be considered at OEWG 2.

**Contact information**

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Who are you submitting on behalf of?

BAN Toxics

The following elements are included in Resolution 5/8. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). Some key terms have been grouped together for the purpose of this tabular analysis, there is inevitably some overlap across principles.

	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
<b>CREDIBILITY</b>					
Robustness/Rigour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Integrity/Objectivity / Independence/Impartiality/ Lack of Bias (avoiding conflicts of interest)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary / Balance of disciplines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RELEVANCE/SALIENCE</b>					
Policy-relevant (and not policy prescriptive)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>LEGITIMACY</b>					
Inclusivity/Balance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- indigenous inclusivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- geographic balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- regional balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- gender balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-- balance of disciplines (see also Credibility/Interdisciplinary...)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>CROSS-CUTTING THEMES</b>					
Transparency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coordination (without duplication) / Complementarity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost-Effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:

Robustness can be integrated in the SPP's operating principle and guidelines, but the SPP should not lose sight of the precautionary principle.

Conflict of interest should be a cross-cutting principle, and is consistent with a science-based approach. This is in line with policy relevance, as clear and unbiased information should be the basis for policy and decision making at the national levels.

Transparency should be reflected in all aspects of the panel’s work, acknowledging that availability of information and data to Member States is a key factor in ensuring that they are able to make informed decisions.

Coordination and complementarity should also be prioritized to ensure that developing countries such as the Philippines are provided with adequate information and resources relevant to the SPP’s work. Likewise, this could also shed light on the capacity of Global South countries to contribute to discussions and innovations on chemicals, wastes, and the prevention of pollution.

Complementarity should also translate to bridging gaps between relevant multilateral environmental agreements to avoid duplication of efforts. As an example, the SPP in the context of a global plastics treaty could serve as an independent panel that can assess the toxicity of plastics and make adequate recommendations based on the treaty text.

**The following table includes other elements that may be considered. Please indicate by clicking on the box(es) where you believe these elements should be included (i.e., operating principles, rules of procedure, guidelines, or other relevant documents, or if they are not relevant). It is also possible to add additional potential operating principles to be considered.**

<b>OTHER</b>	Operating Principle	Rules of Procedure	Guidelines	Other	Not relevant
Promotion of innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive, holistic, or integrative approach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consensus based approach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Providing accessible outputs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others [please add]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Please provide any relevant comments on your choices above:**

In place of a consensus-based approach, BAN Toxics believes that this would not be desirable in the context of the SPP to 1) fast track decision making, and 2) avoid undermining key discussions. The organization recommends exploring a majority vote rule in the decision making process for the SPP.

The promotion of innovation is not considered by BAN Toxics as relevant to the SPP. The SPP should first and foremost focus on discovering new information that is relevant to chemicals and wastes issues, and ensuring that this information is available and disseminated to Member States to inform policy decisions.

**Please provide your written submission in the space below:**

BAN Toxics provides the following recommendations for the SPP:

The Science Policy Panel should make facilitating information sharing a priority and a part of the SPP's core functions. Increased accessibility and availability of knowledge, technologies, and information for both government and non-government can contribute towards improved capacities to formulate chemicals and waste policies that are driven by research and development programs that respond to needs of marginalized sectors.

In the Philippine context, this is important in a number of ways. Developing countries such as ours will benefit immensely from sound research on chemicals and knowledge regarding best practices. Furthermore, this can also provide us with a platform to make our unique research and scientific advancements more widely available.

We also hope that we can ensure that the panel is supported by funding mechanisms based on the polluters pay principle (PPP) to ensure that the burden is not placed on those who are most impacted by chemicals and wastes issues.

Finally, BAN Toxics recognizes the importance of ensuring that horizon scanning becomes a core panel function. This also ensures that the panel focuses on addressing knowledge gaps and preventing new chemicals and wastes issues from emerging. This is consistent with the core principles of an SPP that can support informed policy decision making at the national and global levels.